

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, July 8, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Biarritz France, July 8th., 1888. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec suggests that you would like to see the enclosed letter from Mr. Hitz, so I send it at once and am only ashamed that I never thought of doing so before myself.

We are back here again with the children and Alec. It seems a very long time since Alec was with us and I am very happy to have him with me once more. I found him feeling very miserable exhausted by the tremendous mental and physical strain under which he had been laboring for so long but already a good night and a days sleep has worked wonders and this afternoon he looks and feels better than I dared to hope he would for some days. He is delighted with this place and very much surprised to discover how cool the south of France can be in some parts.

We have not formed any plans yet. Alec wants to go right back and to work up your father and his genealogy but I am extremely unwilling to have him at present for he is still far from thoroughly rested and I think he should give him mind rest by turning it to other thoughts for a while. I wish very much that he could have been with us in Spain, there was so much there that would have interested him. We had two very hot days, one at Tiledo and the other at Madrid when we were thankful Alec was not with us, but the evenings were all cool and the days not as hot as summer weather in Washington or New York. Indeed as Madrid stands over two thousand feet above sea level in the midst of a high plateau over which the wind sweeps from the snow mountains it can never be very hot. We stopped at the Escinal? Escorial on our way to Burgos and were much impressed with

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it, it is a monument, characteristic of the narrow bigotted man who was yet a monarch on whose dominions the sun never set.

Your letter reached me at Burgos, I was so pleased that you 2 should have taken the trouble to write to me, I hardly expected it. I am so glad that you are feeling stronger, I do hope you will continue to improve all summer and be quite your old self again when we return. I find my children quite well and strong but I fear that they have been rather wild during my absence, Mistress Elsie particularly rather broke loose from all control. Hearing that her father was coming she went herself and engaged a whole suits of rooms for him, his Secretary and several gentlemen she declared were coming with him. Then she ordered a baggage wagon and the hotel omnibus to go on to Bayonne to meet him and went herself, arriving there at half past eleven at night.! It must have been near one before she got to bed! The little girls have been taking French lessons, but I don't believe their vocabulary is very extended yet, too many people around speak English.

Good bye, I am so glad to think of you feeling better and being comfortable at Colonial Beach. Please give my love to Mr. Sell and my cousins,

Always affectionately, Mabel. Monroe and Co., 7 rue Scribe are our bankers and always have our latest address.